

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SS-15

NSC-10 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 OMB-01 SAJ-01 MBFR-03

RSR-01 /114 W

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P R 111926Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6242

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

FAA BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09925

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, GW

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS SLOWDOWN

REF: (A) BONN 09784 (B) 9688

1. THE FAVORABLE OUTLOOK FOR THE GERMAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SITUATION UNFORTUNATELY SUFFERED A SET-BACK JULY 11 WHEN ONLY FOUR OUT OF 53 CONTROLLERS REPORTED FOR THE EARLY MORNING SHIFT AT FRANKFURT. CONSEQUENTLY FRANKFURT FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (BUT NOT RPT NOT UPPER FIR) AND FRANKFURT AIRPORT WERE TEMPORARILY CLOSED, WITH ONLY SOUTH CORRIDOR BERLIN TRAFFIC AND MILITARY TRAFFIC BEING HANDLED. AS THE CONTROLLER
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STAFF INCREASED IN SUBSEQUENT SHIFTS, TRAFFIC WAS

GRADUALLY PHASED BACK IN AND FRANKFURT AIRPORT AND FIR BECAME OPERATIONAL AGAIN BY EARLY AFTERNOON. IF THE BERLIN SOUTH CORRIDOR HAD BEEN AFFECTED, THIS WOULD HAVE JEOPARDIZED BERLIN OPERATIONS NOT ONLY INTO FRANKFURT BUT STUTTGART, NUERNBERG AND MUNICH AS WELL.

2. ALTHOUGH ATC IS REPORTED "NORMAL" AT THE PRESENT TIME, IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT LUFTHANSA IS STILL OPERATING ON A 25 PERCENT SCHEDULE REDUCTION AND IS CANCELLING ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS DAILY IF REQUIRED BY THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (FMT) IS CONTINUING ITS LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION AND PARTICULARLY AGAINST ITS PRESIDENT KASSEBOHM BUT WITH NO TANGIBLE RESULTS SO FAR. FRG SPOKESMEN REITERATE THAT THE CONTROLLERS AND THEIR ASSOCIATION ARE NOT QUALIFIED AS PARTIES TO TALKS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN WAGE AND TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS. KRAUSE, GERMAN CHAIRMAN OF THE EQUIVALENT OF THE U.S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (DEUTSCHER BEAMTENBUND), REFUSES TO INTERVENE AS THE ILLEGAL ACTION BY THE CONTROLLERS WOULD THEN BECOME A PRECEDENT FOR OTHER BRANCHES OF PUBLIC SERVICES. PUBLIC OPINION CONTINUES TO BE IN SUPPORT OF THIS POSITION AND, AS EXPRESSED IN ONE PAPER, "NO TALKS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS LONG AS CONTROLLERS HOLD THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC, SO TO SPEAK, AS HOSTAGES". FOLLOWING AN INTER-MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON JULY 10, IT WAS HINTED THAT A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS, ETC. OF THE CONTROLLERS MIGHT TAKE PLACE DURING THE SECOND HALF OF AUGUST, PROVIDED THAT ATC CONDITIONS ARE FULLY BACK TO NORMAL.

4. AT A BONN GROUP MEETING ON JULY 9, FRG REPRESENTATIVE BLECH REFERRED TO PLANS FOR MAINTAINING AIR SERVICES BETWEEN THE FRG AND BERLIN IN THE EVENT OF A COMPLETE BREAKDOWN AT SOME POINT OF THE FRG AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM. ADDING TO HIS COMMENTS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REFTEL (B), HE SAID THAT THE FRG WISHED ABSOLUTELY NO LEAK OF THIS INFORMATION, BUT THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUATION OF THE BERLIN SERVICES BY PAN AM AND BEA WOULD BE ASSURED, IF NECESSARY, BY THE USE OF QUALIFIED GERMAN MILITARY CONTROLLERS AND FACILITIES. SUCH MEASURES WOULD BE ADOPTED FOR THE BERLIN SERVICES EVEN IF FRG DOMESTIC SERVICES WERE LARGELY PARALYSED.
HILLENBRAND

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